

Klinisches Institut für Psychosomatische Medizin und Psychotherapie, Geb. 15.16

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Subject: Umsögn um frumvarp til laga um breytingu á almennum hegningarlögum (bann við umskurði drengja), 148. löggjafarþing, 114. mál.

Ágætu þingmenn Alþingis / Dear Members of the Icelandic Parliament,

we address you as medical professionals from several fields of expertise. You will shortly be discussing a legislative proposal to extend the existing protection of girls against genital cutting in every form to boys.

According to media reports, over 400 Icelandic medical colleagues support this initiative. We, the signatories, would also like to ask you to send out an important signal for the implementation of universal children's rights with your agreement to this amendment.

In Germany, six pediatric societies called on politicians to legally establish child protection regardless of gender once again in a press release last December. If Iceland made progress here, we hope to catch up soon in Germany and other countries.

We as medical professionals are well aware of the dangers to children's health that accompany every circumcision. There is no scientifically evident reason to cut off a healthy boy's healthy foreskin, which is the most erogenous zone of the male penis. Six pediatric societies in Germany have recently published new medical guidelines called "Phimosis and Paraphimosis" that have scientifically explained the functions of the male foreskin. It would

require a very profound evidence-based justification to apply the kind of irreversible change of a male's most intimate parts that a circumcision comprises to a child that can neither consent or understand the consequences.

Unequal protection of girls and boys is to be rejected for ethical reasons. We see that this is a very sensitive issue that concerns culture and religion. We strongly object to any attempts to misconstrue efforts on behalf of the rights of all children to genital self-determination, or to misuse these efforts as a basis to profess or carry out hatred toward religious and cultural minorities.

We very much appreciate the clear phrasing of the bill proposal, that this is solely about equality, the well-being, bodily integrity, and right to self-determination of children.

Best regards,



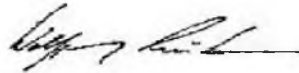
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